

## Free flu vaccines offered to students

Melissa Rushing  
Assistant Editor

Free flu vaccinations were offered in the O'Gorman High School cafeteria Thursday, Oct. 23.

Free vaccinations were also offered to public school students through the South Dakota Department of Health and an initiative put forth by Governor Rounds to vaccinate school-age children against the Influenza virus.

The flu vaccine, unlike other vaccines, is offered free to students because of its high occurrence rate among school-age children, especially during the winter months.

"The flu can be very serious; people can die from it; people can be hospitalized because of it. We've found that it is spread most often by children - that's why we've decided to vaccinate as many school-age children as possible," said Jody Willis, RN.

These vaccines were provided free to Sioux Falls Catholic School System students by Avera Health, the Sioux Falls Immunization Coalition, and SFCSS. The Sioux Falls Immunization Coalition is a group of people who represent different organizations who all believe in and promote immunization, said Willis.

"It's great that the school can offer a convenient and free way to stay well throughout the winter," said junior Andrew Gaspar.

"I think it's important that

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# New PAC to seat 1,000

## Performing arts center last step in building project

Tanya Kapoor  
Editor-in-Chief

Although O'Gorman students and faculty are familiar with the building plans and structure of the new building, many are not familiar with the performing arts center. The new center could be built as soon as the late spring or early summer of 2009.

"This addition is crucial for our students, families and supporters," said Principal Mr. Kyle Groos. "It provides students an opportunity to showcase their talents to the community."

The performing arts center will be used for theatrical productions and school liturgies. The center itself will include 1000 seats arranged in two sections. There will be one aisle in between two sections of seats on the main-level, and side-arm chairs will be placed on the sides of the two sections. Additional seating will be available on the balcony.

The stage and backstage will be more spacious. The architect for the facility is currently gathering specialists to examine what kinds of audiovisual equipment will be needed.

"A fly system and orchestra pit [would be most needed]," said Drama Director Ms. Teresa Fester. "We have limitations with our current stage, and being able to fly



THE WINKELS GROUP

According to the conceptual design, the center will be built where the old G-Wing lies.

in different scenery drops would enhance our shows. Backstage space is equally exciting."

If construction starts next summer, the center could be utilized as soon as the 2010-2011 school year. Therefore, current sophomores, the class of 2011, could fully use it. The performing arts center might also allow O'Gorman to host the state one-

act festival, show-choir and cheer and dance competitions.

"The performing arts center will allow us to expose what we can offer as a school," said Groos. "Facilities carry weight with families, and if there is a certain family that has a talent for music or the performing arts, this could impact a family's decision of where to send their children to school."

The theater in the performing arts center will carry the name of the current Sioux Falls Catholic Schools Superintendent Dr. Tom Lorang and his wife Mrs. Penny Lorang. The general chairs of the Building on Excellence Campaign decided the name.

"Dr. Lorang has been a true

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# Election set to draw record turnout

Joe Klein  
Assistant Editor

Election Day in America is anything but a quiet event. Tuesday will prove this. Turnout is expected to be higher than any point in history. Both candidates have declared this year's election absolutely critical to the future of the country. Issues that have long haunted the American populace now face a breaking point.

Tens of millions of Americans have no health insurance. The war in Iraq continues its struggle. Scientists are recording data on global warming that has surpassed many worst case scenarios.

Despite these and other issues are desperate need of careful attention, one seems to dominate not only the media but also the nightmares of millions of Americans and participants in the global economy.

The effects of the national financial crisis have not impacted

South Dakota quite as much as the rest of the country. The economy is still, however, an extraordinarily important factor in the outcome of the election here and everywhere.

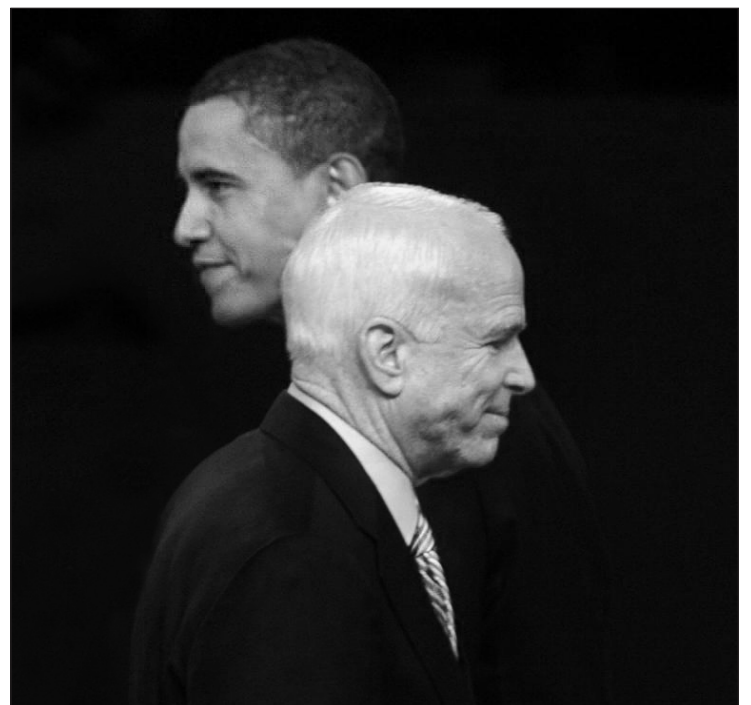
For many Americans, the choice for who will next lead the country lies with the candidate who proves better equipped to deal with staggering financial burdens.

Both the collapsing market and the unthinkable budget deficit and national debt are history making in size and magnitude.

Sen. McCain will win South Dakota, according to current poll numbers and nearly half a century of history.

Recent polls showed him with a strong lead in the state at 48% of the vote, but even this is a slip for Republicans. President George W. Bush won the state by an overwhelming 60% both of his

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PRESS PHOTO

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) cross paths after a recent debate.

## Election

Continued from page 1

elections.

Nationally, things are different. McCain trails Obama in most national polls, and current projections of the Electoral College have him in a much stronger position than his opponent.

To get a sense of the political leanings of O’Gorman students, the Knight Scroll conducted an extensive poll.

Over 200 students from all classes, regardless of voting eligibility, were asked to report which candidate they personally would vote for.

The result was a victory for McCain, but proved a somewhat unusually close race.

Although Obama registers just above 40% in the recent state wide poll, our own Scroll Poll gauged student support at around 47%.

Projections for voter turnout show

record smashing numbers. Several states are doing everything they can to prepare for as much as a 90% turnout.

The national average in 2004 was 64%.

Voter registration numbers in Minnehaha County have soared above 100,000, and the county now has about 20 percent of the state’s registered voters.

According to the Secretary of State’s office, South Dakota has 504,327 voters.

During the past two years, Democrats have increased their voter registration by 3,857 registered voters.

Republicans have gained 2,779 registered voters while Independents have gained 7,760.

South Dakota’s race for the US Senate seat and the weighty Initiated Measure 11 referendum are also likely to push turnout to record levels.

## Flu

Continued from page 1

everyone get the vaccine to prevent getting the flu and to prevent the spread of the flu to others,” said Willis.

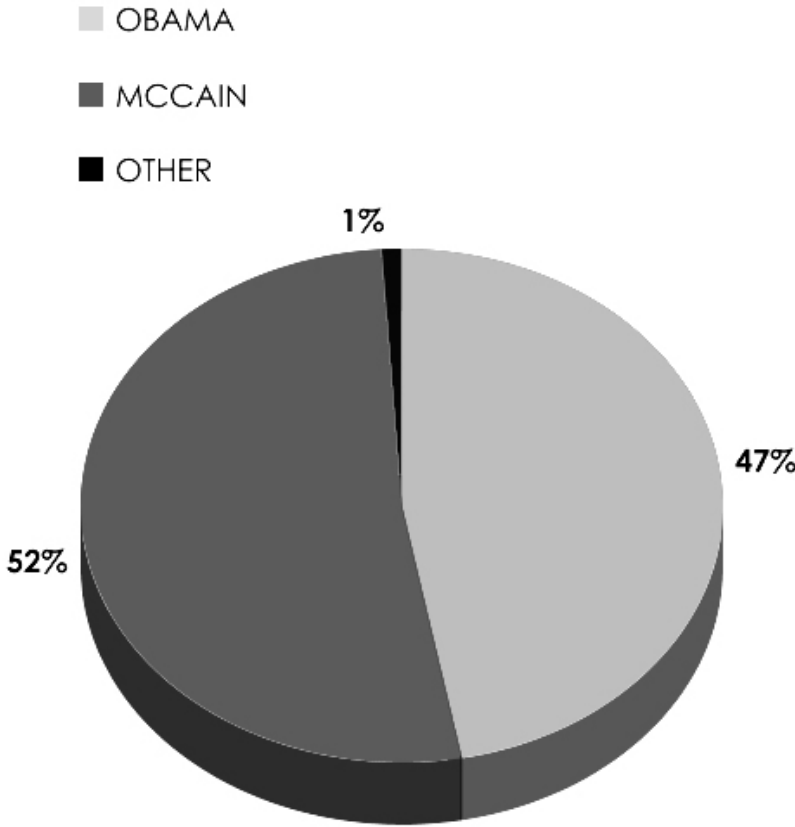
Approximately 10-20 percent of the United States population will contract the flu this year.

Free vaccination clinics were also

offered at O’Gorman Junior High School on Oct. 21, Cathedral Grade School on Oct. 20, and Christ the King Grade School on Oct. 22. As some non-previously-vaccinated students require a second vaccine, additional clinics will be held at Cathedral on Nov. 17 and Christ the King on Nov. 18.

## Scroll Poll

The staff of the O’Gorman *Knight Scroll* surveyed over 200 O’Gorman students about which candidate they would vote for in this year’s presidential election.



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### Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be concise. The writer should include a name and contact information. All letters may be edited for grammar and content.

### Editorial Policy

All editorials are the sole opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of the O’Gorman faculty, administration or the *Knight Scroll*.

## Quotes of the Month

- “People everywhere confuse what they read in newspapers with news.”
- “It’s amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper.”
- “Age is foolish and forgetful when it underestimates youth.”
- “The problem of power is how to achieve its responsible use rather than its irresponsible and indulgent use - of how to get men of power to live for the public rather than off the public.”
- “That’s a detention!”
- “If God had wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates.”
- “The radical of one century is the conservative of the next. The radical invents the views. When he has worn them out the conservative adopts them.”
- “I am not a crook.”
- “Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is in an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob, and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.”

Answers  
1. A. J. Liebling  
2. Jerry Seinfeld  
3. J.K. Rowling  
4. Robert F. Kennedy  
5. Mr. Van Engen  
6. Jay Leno  
7. Mark Twain  
8. President Richard Nixon  
9. Frederick Douglass



## (Baby) Blue Man Group

Maggie Lawler  
Staff Writer

Baby blue has never been such a popular color, or at least the members of the Wednesday Mass group believe so.

Each Wednesday, a group consisting of several sophomore boys wears matching baby blue polos to school. The members of the group sit by each other at Mass.

Sam Jacobsen and Zach Cole named themselves “Co-Leaders” of this group when they coincidentally wore the same baby blue polo to school last year on a Mass day.

“We immediately founded the club and a facebook group and have continued to wear our baby blue polos every Mass day since then,” said Cole.

Taylor Kneip and Cedrick Lang have newly joined the group and are called the “official prophets.” Also in this group are Patrick Peterson, T.J. Davis and Sean Turgeon.

Once inducted into the group, new members are given two weeks to purchase a baby blue polo.

Each week, new inductees and original members alike are reminded to wear their baby blue polos when Kneip sends out his weekly text to the group.

If in the case members forget to

dress accordingly, they are penalized with a week suspension and cannot sit with the group at Mass.

For these boys, their group is not just a weekly habit, but a spiritual experience.

Also, wearing the baby blue polos allows members of the group to grow in friendship with each other.

“The group helps us want to go to Mass, and together we share some serious spiritual bonding,” said Cole.

“Together we choose not to go to study hall, and by praying together at Mass, we become closer friends,” said Jacobsen.

These boys have formed not a group, but a brotherhood, in which Mass and fellowship are encouraged.

Wearing a baby blue polo allows the members to grow spiritually and personally. Members come to Mass and grow in their friendship.

It is not the fact that they happened to be wearing matching polos but that these boys have found one more way to become closer friends while practicing their faith. This, more than anything else, sets them apart from any other O’Gorman student group.



JOE KLEIN / KNIGHT SCROLL

The Wednesday Mass group attends weekly Mass together.

## Religious diversity critical to O’Gorman

Patrick Linsenmeyer  
Staff Writer

As a committed Catholic school, O’Gorman can sometimes forget to acknowledge the variety of faiths its students have. Although the majority is clearly Roman Catholic, there are a lot of students, myself included, who are not Catholic.

Many of us come here out of respect for O’Gorman’s proven education system. A few come because their parents want to immerse them in the faith community.

O’Gorman needs us. A mixture of faiths is the best way to bring questioning and diversity to the school’s most important aspect.

According to Principal Mr. Kyle Groos there are usually between 8 and 10 percent of students who are not registered Catholics. This year, that number has shrunk to just above 8 percent.

These numbers, however, only record the parish affiliations of students’ parents, not those of the actual students.

To this point Groos said, “We can never know what is really in their hearts and minds.”

Eight percent may seem small, but when dealing with matters of faith, fresh

perspectives are absolutely vital.

One of the most important things we bring is questioning. When given a different perspective and a few reflection-provoking problems, people can really grow in their devotion. Any position, religious or otherwise, if never allowed to assess itself critically, would inevitably corrupt.

“It is very important for us as Catholics to be aware of and to try to understand the beliefs of others,” said Campus Ministry Coordinator Ms. Jennifer Moser. “We are going to encounter other beliefs in our larger society and [we] need to be open to learning.”

Opinions of other faiths are valuable to the O’Gorman community. Even though Catholic doctrine may not agree with the opinions of other faiths, directly there is something that can be learned.

Remember the simple words of Pope John Paul II, “Humanity should question itself.” O’Gorman is an excellent example of integration. The school presents an arena of different beliefs not because of the ratio of students, but because of the importance faith is given.

Faith has always defined O’Gorman, but without students of other religions, this faith would miss opportunities and lose this fundamental self-critique.

# Do you have a faith story?

## The Knight Scroll invites you to share your own faith story by sending it to [ogscroll@gmail.com](mailto:ogscroll@gmail.com)



# O’Gorman students represent and guide

Matt Entringer  
Staff Writer

If it had not been for the students in blue and white, adults attending parent’s night would have been lost in O’Gorman High School. Student ambassadors are made up of sophomore, junior and senior students; their duties range from helping out at the graduation Mass to selling Knight Wear at parent-teacher conferences.

“My favorite part of being in student ambassadors is showing lost students and parents around,” said two-year member, senior Ryan Anderson. “I remember when I was a freshman and was always getting lost, so it is nice to be on the other side of the equation.”

The student ambassadors are led by teachers Ms. Teresa Fester and Ms. Kathy Rutten.

“The biggest contribution student ambassadors can provide is to promote a positive attitude about themselves, others and especially their school to people who come to O’Gorman whether it be interested families, community members or even current families,” said Rutten.

The student ambassador program was started in the fall of 2004 as a way to assist in recruitment efforts for O’Gorman High School and the Sioux Falls Catholic School System. It was created by a group of administrators and teachers that felt a need to have a group beyond the student council that could provide specific services to

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JOE KLEIN / KNIGHT SCROLL

Olivia Rauschenbach sings a solo during the Ovation performance at Song of O’Gorman.

# O’G vocalists begin year of fellowship and service

Shilpa Chandran  
Staff Writer

From relaxed performances to intense competitions, the O’Gorman choir is preparing to make this year memorable for everyone.

“What sets us apart is the quality of the students,” said Mrs. Cathy Britton, O’Gorman’s choir director. “There is a sense of community already built in that translates nicely into choir.”

Every year, the dynamics of choir change with people graduating and others joining. There are around 50 new freshmen, and the leadership this year is dependent upon the senior class, most of whom have been with choir all four of their high school years. Britton feels that this year is filled with promising people.

“The incoming ninth grade class is extremely talented, and there is never a year when the seniors don’t step up,” said Britton.

O’Gorman consists of five different branches of choir: Concert Choir, Knights

Ensemble, Cantique Chorale, KnightLights and Ovation. All require an audition except for Knights Ensemble and Cantique Chorale.

The different divisions of choir will be putting on multiple concerts throughout the school year. The first was *Song of O’Gorman* on Oct. 20. This included all five choirs as well as

“There is a sense of community already built in that translates nicely into choir.”

- Mrs. Cathy Britton

the O’Gorman Junior High choral group.

Britton said that because of the talent level this year, the basic song literature reserved for the first program of the season was replaced with more challenging musical selections.

Next up is *Vespers*, taking place on Dec. 15 at St. Joseph’s Cathedral. This event is often

mistaken as a Mass, but it is actually a Christmas prayer service. In spring, the show choirs begin their competition season, which lasts from February to March.

“We are definitely challenging ourselves this year,” said Rachael Andersen, president of Concert Choir. “We have worked hard to be ready for our first concert, and we are already preparing our music for *Vespers*.”

*Capers* is the Concert Choir’s dinner and variety show that will take place on Feb. 9. This show will also act as a fundraiser for the choir’s trip to New Orleans from Apr. 1-6. Concert Choir will sing and perform a service project in New Orleans.

“A lot of us haven’t been this far away,” said Andersen. “We are not sure what the service project will be exactly, but we will be helping the victims of Hurricane Katrina with whatever they need.”

The last concert of the year for choir will be the Spring Concert. This performance is yet unnamed but will occur on May 11.

## Performing

Continued from page 1

leader within the high school and [school] system for approximately 30 of its 50 years,” said General Chair Mr. Miles Beacom. “Penny Lorang has been an incredible supporter of both Tom and the Catholic school system for each of the past 30 years. Tom would be quick to point out that his accomplishments are truly their accomplishments.

“I was very surprised when I heard the name,” said Lorang. “I am very appreciative about it. Everything that I have done for the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools has been a collective effort.

The center will be built partially

where the old G-Wing lies. The old G-Wing will need to be demolished before the facility can be built. After the performing arts center is constructed, the school will also gain parking spots.

“We do not anticipate very much noise from the building process,” said Groos. “Also, the noise from the demolition will be minimal.”

Approximately \$2.1 million needs to be raised in order for the Building on Excellence Campaign to meet its goal. The fundraising goal for the performing arts center is \$7.2 million. Out of that, \$6.2 million will directly be used for the center. The remaining \$1 million will be used to renovate the current auditorium to convert it into an Activities Center. The

Activities Center will be used for cheerleading, dance, wrestling and gymnastics.

“In November or December, we will start examining the definite numbers we have and then will have to decide when to begin the project,” said Lorang. “The latest we would want to begin would be the fall of 2009.”

The Building on Excellence Campaign expects that the center will eventually pay for its operations, such as the electrical and mechanical costs. The facility will generate that revenue because it will be rented when the school is not using it.

“Our hope is that [renting the center] will more than cover the operational costs,” said Lorang.

The idea for the center came

when the new building’s focus groups were established during 2005. When O’Gorman supporters were debating whether to rebuild on campus or to move offsite, supporters who are passionate about the performing arts suggested the idea of a performing arts center.

“The community felt strongly about this project,” said Lorang. “The idea for the performing arts center came right after the ideas for new classrooms and a new chapel. Our students deserve to have a facility that matches the quality of their talents.”

Although the performing arts center will inspire many future O’Gorman students, the auditorium still houses many memories for current O’Gorman

students and alumni

“[The auditorium] is old, outdated and falling apart, but it still has its charm and was a second home for thousands of graduates,” said Fester.

The performing arts center, though, will use the help of the same O’Gorman alumni to build something that future generations of O’Gorman could possibly use.

“What motivates me to support the performing arts center is the need that O’Gorman High School has in providing the students with the proper facilities to continue to improve their overall education,” said Beacom. “I see this as our responsibility to provide the kids of today with the overall tools to be tomorrow’s leaders.”





Gian Andreone and Ben Linsenmeyer practice for the upcoming debate season.

JOE KLEIN / KNIGHT SCROLL

# Debate sees surge in membership

Taylor Reaves  
Staff Writer

The O’Gorman debaters are preparing for the 2008 competitive season. Returning seniors Nick Sideras, Tanya Kapoor and John Miller are beginning their final debating season as captains of the team.

All three have participated in debate throughout every year of high school. Sideras and Miller also practiced for the season by attending a camp this past summer.

“It helped me to practice my research and speaking skills to help prepare me for our upcoming season,” said Miller.

The 2007 season ended well for the Knights. Many of the O’Gorman debaters placed in the final rounds of tournaments but failed to qualify for nationals.

“We are hoping to send a few people to nationals this year,” said head coach Mrs. Gwen Skar.

Skar begins her second year of coaching this year along with assistant coach Mrs. Kelly Brose.

“This year we hope to build a bigger Lincoln Douglas team, and I have high hopes for Policy,” said Skar.

Lincoln Douglas debate focuses on ethical issues, whereas Policy debate focuses on government issues. Public Forum debate focuses more on current events. Last year the Knights had only a single Lincoln Douglas debater, but this year they have seven.

“Getting more people to join is an accomplishment in itself,” said Skar.

This year the Knights welcome

many returning members along with many new faces. Junior Tori Kaspar, who participated in last year’s Public Forum debate, returns for another year of debate with the Knights.

“Debate is a great way to be with friends, and the coaches are amazing,” said Kaspar.

Senior Trevor Watson joins debate for the first year.

“It is a great way to learn more about the world’s current news topics,” said Watson.

The first tournament for the Knights is on Nov. 8.

## Student

Continued from page 4

the O’Gorman community.

“The goal was and is to involve O’Gorman students in extending hospitality to people that come to our campus and to present our community to the larger community in which we live,” says Rutten.

Since the creation of the student ambassador program, many more students have become involved in the school and community.

“Every year we have more and more students sign up for the student ambassador program,” said Fester. “It becomes more and more difficult every year to limit the number of students we can have involved with the program.”

The student ambassador program’s contributions are appreciated throughout the school.

“The student ambassadors provide such a range of tasks that it is impossible to describe,” said Assistant Principal Mrs. Joan Mahoney. “Their role varies from peer support to public relations to marketing. We are truly lucky to have a group of students committed to the excellence of O’Gorman and the O’Gorman community.”

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KNIGHT LEGEND

The volleyball team played well at the GDC tournament.

## O'G Volleyball: 'Talent and heart at all levels'

Elizabeth Cynkar  
Staff Writer

The O'Gorman volleyball team is always striving to reach their goals. As the season comes to an end, the players are working harder than ever. They are both strong individually and as a team. Their coaches have high expectations and are very confident in them.

"I want our team to learn something about the game every time they step on the court, strengthen our team chemistry, build confidence and have fun," said Coach Renae Kuchta. "Our ultimate team goal is to make it to the state tournament in Rapid City."

At the GDC tournament, varsity scored 25-22, 25-23, 25-17 against Sturgis, winning all three matches. In the second game, they played Rapid City Stevens scoring 25-22, 19-25, 14-25, 25-21, 10-15 and won two of the five matches.

The Knights then went up against

Spearfish and scored 25-13, 27-25, 25-12, winning the third game. For the final game of the tournament O'Gorman played Rapid City Central and scored 25-22, 25-12, 25-21, once again winning their game. The Lady Knights definitely proved their ability to work together as a team.

"I really hope the players enjoy the experience of competition and appreciate the opportunity to be a part of an O'Gorman athletic team," said Kuchta.

They are striving to achieve their goals toward the end of this season.

"Our volleyball program has talent and heart at all levels," said Kuchta. "The athletes have put in a lot of hard work and I am proud of their dedication and effort."

For the remainder of the season, the Knights will keep their focus on playing as a team. Win or lose, their goal is to have fun along the way and stick together.

## Dance team attains school sanctioning

Rebecca Jarding  
Claire Hassel

This year, the O'Gorman dance team joins football, basketball and tennis as a school sanctioned sport.

According to the South Dakota High School Activities Association, dance has become a school sanctioned sport to encourage more female participation in sports.

Starting off as just another activity at O'G, the dance team worked hard. They raised money for uniforms, for transportation and for a coach. Now that the dance team is recognized as a school sanctioned sport, O'Gorman High School funds the team's transportation, competition fees, coach and uniforms.

Another positive to being a school sanctioned sport, besides the financial assistance, is the recognition now bestowed upon the team.

"Now that dance is a school

sanctioned sport, it feels like we are being recognized for all the hard work we have put into the team," said junior Rachael Rogers, a third year member of the dance team.

Besides this being the first year that dance is school sanctioned, another innovation to the team this year is new coach Hannah Johnson, a sophomore at SDSU.

"The team has been doing well in competitions, considering it is their first year as an official dance team," said Johnson. "They are competing against teams who have been established for years, so I am very proud of the girls."

The dance team says their improvement at competitions can be credited to their many hours of practice. Johnson explained that the team was able to start practicing at the end of July. Since then, the team started partaking in technique classes twice a week. During the regular dance season, which goes from

September to November, the team practices every day of the week except for Tuesday.

According to senior leader Margaret Free, with the practice and dedication comes improvement from the team as a whole.

"The dance team has gotten better on all levels, and the outfits are hardly even embarrassing," said Free. "The dancers, especially the ones who have been on it since the beginning, have grown and improved so much in their technique over the past couple of years."

So far, the dance team has performed at six dance competitions. The next competition is the state tournament in Yankton on Nov. 15. Once the regular dance season is over, the girls will continue to practice in order to prepare for their performances at one O'Gorman boys and girls basketball game.

## Individual cross country runners receive recognition, set records

Christopher Oligmueller  
Staff Writer

The cross country team this year is full of talented members that have their goals set high.

This season's team consists of 34 members headed by coaches Mr. Doug Lindner and Mr. Aaron Strand. Some of the runners on the varsity team are Tanner Vernard, Danal Abera Matt Schoppert, Patrick Brende, Taylor Sharpe, Joel Heckman and Cady Sea.

Team leaders are junior Schoppert and seniors Abera, Heckmen and Vernard, who

also serves as the team's captain.

Several of the cross country runners have received recognition this year. Schoppert set the record at the Mac Butler invite at Kuehn Park. On Oct. 10, two of the runners, Abbey VanDenBerg and Abera, received the title of All Conference at Rapid City Central. Abera was the only one from the team placing, earning a tenth place finish.

Vernard, Abera, Schoppert, Sea, Sharpe, Liz Norman and Marie Yokan competed at the state meet.



KNIGHT LEGEND

Runners line up for a race.

## Golf team finishes eighth in state, freshmen win city

Rachel Lindgren  
Sam Crain

It was an off year this year for the boys golf team as they finished eighth at the state tournament. The team has lost three seniors who played in the top four last year. They also finished third at the city tournament.

"We could have done better," said senior Dylan DeSchepper.

"We had mental mistakes each tournament, but we just have to grow from that and improve."

Also, the varsity team was fairly young this year with both 7th and 8th graders joining high school students on the team.

"The leadership was good even though we were young as a team," said DeSchepper.

This season, the freshman golf team easily routed their opponents

at the city meet.

"We won city by over 31 strokes [and] as a team we dominated," said Mr. Matt Schaeffer, the freshman coach.

Individual freshmen also excelled in their sport. At the city meet, Tom Breske and Austin Nachtigall finished second and third overall, barely missing out the 1st place.

## Freshmen football ends perfect season with 8-0 record

Maegen Lipetzky  
Christina Engeman

O'Gorman's athletic teams are preparing now for a promising future. The freshman football and volleyball teams have been striving for success this year with all of their hard work and dedication.

The football team, coached

by Mr. Jeff Gordon, had a perfect season this year. They finished the year number one in the city with an 8-0 record.

"In all of my years of coaching, this is only the fourth time it has happened," said Gordon.

Freshman Austin Holzer and

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